



To:

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

António Costa, President of the European Council

cc:

Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Dubravka Šuica, Commissioner for the Mediterranean

Brussels, 20 October 2025

Dear President Von der Leyen,

Dear President Costa,

We are writing you in advance of the 22 October EU-Egypt Summit to urge you to address Egypt's deplorable human rights situation directly with President Al-Sisi, in line with the EU's legal obligations under the recent agreement on granting macro-financial assistance (MFA) to Egypt.

The Summit comes in a context of enhanced relations between the EU and Egypt, marked by the conclusion of a Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership in March 2024, detailing six pillars of cooperation, underpinned by a 7.4 billion financial support package to Egypt for the period 2024-2027.

This includes €4 billion macro-financial assistance to Egypt, approved by Council and Parliament and signed on 24 June 2025.

We are glad that co-legislators agreed to legally establish the promotion of accountability, the rule of law, full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as a cornerstone in EU-Egypt relations and concrete progress on those issues as a pre-condition for the macro financial assistance.

Article 2 (1) of the MFA Decision establishes the formal precondition obliging Egypt to take concrete and credible steps towards respecting effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guaranteeing respect for human rights, in order to receive each instalment of funds. The Commission is obliged to report on these developments to co-legislators in an annual report.

Despite these formal commitments, we regret that the Egyptian authorities have failed to meet the necessary human rights pre-conditions. Under Al-Sisi's rule, arrests and judicial harassment against persons hoping to mount an electoral challenge to the authorities have

continued, depriving them of their right to political participation, in a context of closed civic space and heavy restrictions on freedoms of expression, association, assembly and the press. Egyptian authorities have persisted in committing similar patterns of human rights violations - including systemic torture, enforced disappearances, and mass arbitrary detention in harsh conditions - with impunity. They have continued their crackdown on peaceful dissent and failed to amend the many repressive laws as necessary to comply with Egypt's constitutional and international human rights obligations. The rule of law is undermined as the authorities continue to misuse Egypt's criminal justice system, using the State Security Prosecution and terrorism court circuits to prosecute dissidents for political reasons and depriving them of fair trial rights, including the right to adequate defence. Civilians continue to be tried before military courts that are inherently unfair.

Civil society has documented how repression in Egypt has significantly contributed to the deterioration of the economic situation and undermined social, economic and cultural rights. Pressing minority rights and women's rights issues have either worsened or seen no progress; Egyptian authorities have adopted no comprehensive laws to tackle gender-based violence, nor have they amended legislation perpetuating violence and discrimination against women. Independent human rights groups have also documented systematic practices of transnational repression by the Egyptian authorities including denial of consular services, smear campaigns, digital surveillance, harassment of families inside Egypt, misuse of counterterrorism laws and weaponizing diplomatic missions.

In light of the above, we are disappointed that the EU's policy towards Egypt has failed to reflect the obligations and commitments set out in Article 2(1) of the MFA agreement.

Most notably, we regret that the recently concluded Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and Egypt did not lay out the concrete improvements Egypt needs to make in order to meet the precondition for disbursement of the MFA.

We consider the formalisation of the concrete expectations towards Egypt to be of crucial importance for the European Parliament to fulfil its mandate and scrutinize this macro financial assistance package that is the single largest ever awarded to a third country.

Against that backdrop, we consider the upcoming summit an opportunity for formalizing expectations on concrete and specific human rights progress directly with Egypt's political leadership, and urge you to do so, taking the country's UN Universal Periodic Review commitments, and its constitutional and international human rights commitments, as a sound basis.

We stand ready for any engagement to promote the EU's human rights agenda towards Egypt, and look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

MEP Tineke Strik, Greens/EFA
MEP Mounir Satouri, Greens/EFA

MEP Francisco Assis, S&D
MEP Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Renew
MEP David Cormand, Greens/EFA
MEP Jaume Asens Llodrà, Greens/EFA
MEP Cecilia Strada, S&D
MEP Majdouline Sbaï, Greens/EFA
MEP Pernando Barrena, The Left
MEP Raquel García Hermida-van der Walle, Renew
MEP Elisabeth Grossmann, S&D
MEP Thomas Waitz, Greens/EFA
MEP Saskia Bricmont, Greens/EFA
MEP Irena Joveva, Renew
MEP Vicent Marza Ibanez, Greens/EFA
MEP Alessandro Zan, S&D
MEP Rudi Kennes, The Left
MEP Leoluca Orlando, Greens/EFA
MEP Brando Benifei, S&D
MEP Hannah Neumann, Greens/EFA
MEP Marco Tarquinio, S&D
MEP Marie Toussaint, Greens/EFA
MEP Tilly Metz, Greens/EFA
MEP Mélissa Camara, Greens/EFA
MEP Sara Matthieu, Greens/EFA
MEP Rima Hassan, The Left
MEP Krzysztof Smiszek, S&D
MEP Estrella Galán, The Left
MEP Catarina Vieira, Greens/EFA
MEP Damien Careme, The Left
MEP Cristina Guarda, Greens/EFA
MEP Kim van Sparrentak, Greens/EFA
MEP Erik Marquardt, Greens/EFA
MEP Alice Kuhnke, Greens/EFA